

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SWF-02 AGR-20 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /118 W  
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R 132030Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2136  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 4926

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BFOR, PBOR, SGEN, MX, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN-MEXICAN BRACERO AGREEMENT

1. FIRST SECRETARY AT CANADIAN EMBASSY INFORMED EMBOFF  
THAT CANADA AND MEXICO WILL SIGN BRACERO-TYPE AGREEMENT,  
PROBABLY NEXT WEEK. OUTLINE OF PROPOSED PROGRAM IS AS  
FOLLOWS:

A. NUMBERS INVOLVED:

THERE WILL NOT BE A FIXED ANNUAL QUOTA. BASED ON  
AGRICULTURAL LABOR DEMAND, CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOTIFY  
GOM OF APPROXIMATE REQUIREMENTS (INCLUDING TYPE OF LABORERS  
DESIRED) 45 DAYS BEFORE BEGINNING OF AGRICULTURAL SEASON.  
FIFTEEN DAYS BEFORE SEASON BEGINS, GOM WILL BE GIVEN A  
FIRM FIGURE. SOURCE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH NO ACCURATE  
COUNT IS AVAILABLE, ESTIMATES WERE THAT 10,000 ILLEGAL  
MEXICANS WORKED IN CANADA LAST YEAR. PROGRAM TO BE  
ANALOGOUS TO SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS WITH CARIBBEAN NATIONS  
WHEREBY SOME 3000 TEMPORARY FARM WORKERS PRESENTLY ENTER  
CANADA ANNUALLY. MAXIMUM STAY WILL BE 8 MONTHS.

B. RECRUITMENT:

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GOM WILL HAVE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECRUITMENT

AND SELECTION OF WORKERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM. IN ORDER TO KEEP FROM BEING INUNDATED WITH APPLICANTS, GOM HOPES TO KEEP PROGRAM QUIET AND CARRY OUT ITS RECRUITMENT EFFORTS IN THOSE AREAS (E.G. ZACATECAS, AGUASCALIENTES, ETC.) IDENTIFIED BY MEXICANS AS LOCI OF GREATEST EMIGRATION. UNDER PROGRAM ONLY PRINCIPALS (I.E. NO FAMILY MEMBERS) WILL BE PERMITTED TO TRAVEL.

C. FINANCE:

CONTRACTING FARMER IN CANADA WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCING MOST OF AIR TRANSPORTATION COSTS TO AND FROM CANADA. AGREEMENT SPECIFIES A MINIMUM WAGE TO BE PAID DURING STAY IN CANADA (SINCE FARM LABORERS ARE COVERED BY A PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION, IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW THIS MINIMUM WAGE IS ESTABLISHED.)

D. GOM INSPECTION:

DURING TEMPORARY WORKER'S STAY IN CANADA, CONDITIONS (E.G. HOUSING, SANITATION, COMPLIANCE WITH MINIMUM WAGE, ETC) WILL BE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION BY GOM OFFICIALS, PRESUMABLY REPRESENTATIVE OF INTERIOR SECRETARIAT WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMIGRATION MATTERS.

4. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, INITIATIVE ON THIS AGREEMENT CAME FROM CANADA; MOTIVATION IS GENUINE LABOR SHORTAGE -- GOC EVIDENTLY IS CONVINCED THAT CANADIANS NOT WILLING TO ACCEP AGRICULTURAL JOBS IN QUESTION. SOURCE FURTHER STATED THAT GOM HAS ACCEPTED THAT ANY MEXICANS FOUND TO BE WORKING IN CANADA BUT WHO ARE NOT COVERED UNDER NEW PROGRAM WILL BE SUBJECT TO DEPORTATION.

3. THIS SUBJECT SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS UNTIL THE CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS HAVE MADE PUBLIC THEIR AGREEMENT. JOVA

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